

Renewing^{the}
Male and Female
Diaconate^{in the}
ORTHODOX
CHURCH

A Pan-Orthodox Conference
October 6-7, 2017
St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
4949 Alton Parkway
Irvine, California 92604

This conference will examine the theology, history, and purpose of the diaconate; both male and female. It will include four sessions: the present state of the diaconate; the ways men and women are engaged in diaconal service today; the opportunities to engage with both clergy and faithful on rejuvenation of the male and female diaconate; and the difficulties and benefits of ordaining women deacons — all for the building up of the body of Christ.

FRIDAY, October 6
7 to 9:30 pm

Keynote address by **Rev. Archdeacon John Chryssavgis**, Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on the “The Missing Link: A Fresh Look at the Diaconate”

Reception to follow

SATURDAY, October 7
8:00 am to 5 pm

Welcome: AnnMarie Mecera, President of St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess
Prayer Service: **Rev. Father Steven Tsihchlis**

Session One “The State of the Diaconate Today”

Introductions and moderator: **Rev. Deacon Dan Cunningham**

Panelists:

Rev. Father Michael Courey, St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Redondo Beach, CA

Dr. James Skedros, Dean, Catonis Professor of Byzantine Studies and Early Christianity at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and Director of the GOA Diaconate Program

Rev. Father Anthony Roeber, Professor Emeritus at Penn State University, Visiting Professor of Church History at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, and Spiritual Director of Deacons in AOCA Mid-Atlantic

Rev. Father Alexander Rentel, Professor of Canon Law and Byzantine Studies at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

Session Two “Serving the Body of Christ: Men and Women Engaged in Diaconal Work Today”

Introductions and moderator: **Teva Regule, Ph.D.** (candidate), St. Phoebe Center Board Member

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Panelists:

Dr. Demetra Velisarios Jaquet, Greek Orthodox pastoral counselor, spiritual director, and chaplain *on Pastoral Counseling*

Rev. Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, Orthodox Church in America; Member, Secretariat of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA; Trustee of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary *on Administration and Governance*

Rev. Deacon Paul Cherkas, Graduate of St. Stephen's House of Studies, serving the Ukrainian Orthodox Church *on Hospice and Homebound*

Clio Pavlantos, M.A., C.M.A., M.Div. and B.C.C., Staff Chaplain, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York City *on Chaplaincy*

Session Three “Engaging the Clergy and Faithful About the Diaconate”

Introductions and Moderator: **Rev. Protodeacon Peter Danilchick**

Presentation on Orthodox Bishops and Synods: “Synods and Church Order: Testing the Spirits,”

Rev. Deacon Nicholas Denysenko, incoming Jochum Professor and Chair at Valparaiso University (January 2018).

Presentation on Engaging with Clergy and Faithful: **Gust Mecera** and **Dr. Carrie Frederick Frost**, St. Phoebe Center Board Members

Session Four “Difficulties and Benefits of Ordaining Women Deacons”

Introductions and moderator: **Dr. Helen Creticos Theodoropoulos**, St. Phoebe Center Board Member

Difficulties: **Rev. Protodeacon Brian Patrick Mitchell, MTh**, St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Cathedral, Washington, DC

Benefits: **Dr. Valerie A. Karras**, Professor of Church History and Patristics